

Boston Borough Council
Dog Controls PSPO Consultation Feedback
Report
May 2026



Introduction to this consultation

1. This report details the responses received for the Boston Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation undertaken between 20th April 2026 and 18th May 2026.
2. In October 2026, Boston Borough Council's PSPO is due to expire. It is made and enforced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Order is used to enforce Dog Fouling, Dog Exclusion Zones and allows Authorised Officers to request that dogs are placed on leads.
3. The PSPO must be reviewed every three years. The Council is seeking to amend the Order to include further dog control restrictions. Registered blind and assistance dog owners will remain exempt from the Order in relation to dog control. The consultation was undertaken to gather views on the proposed changes. All respondents were asked to read the proposed PSPO prior to completing the survey.

Methodology

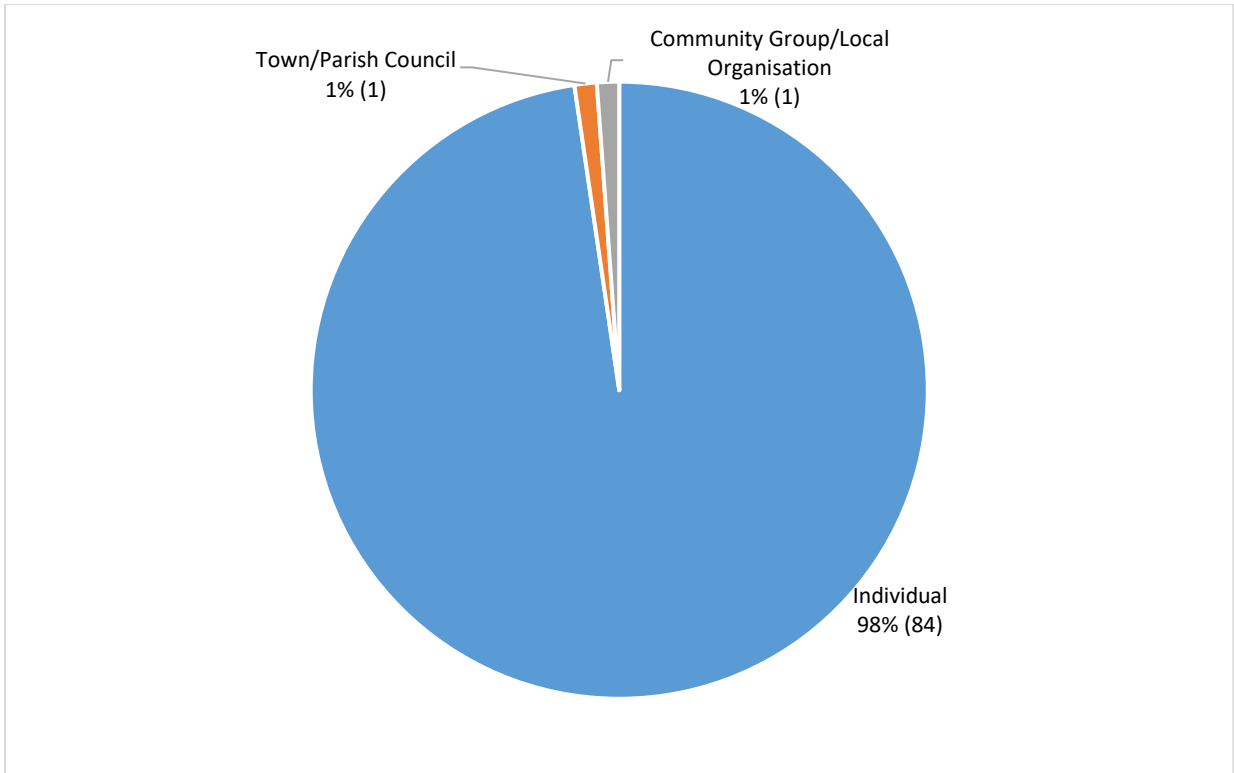
4. The online survey was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. A link to the consultation was shared on social media and via a press release. Two face to face events were held in the town. Paper copies of the questionnaire were also available on request.
5. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%).

Response Rate

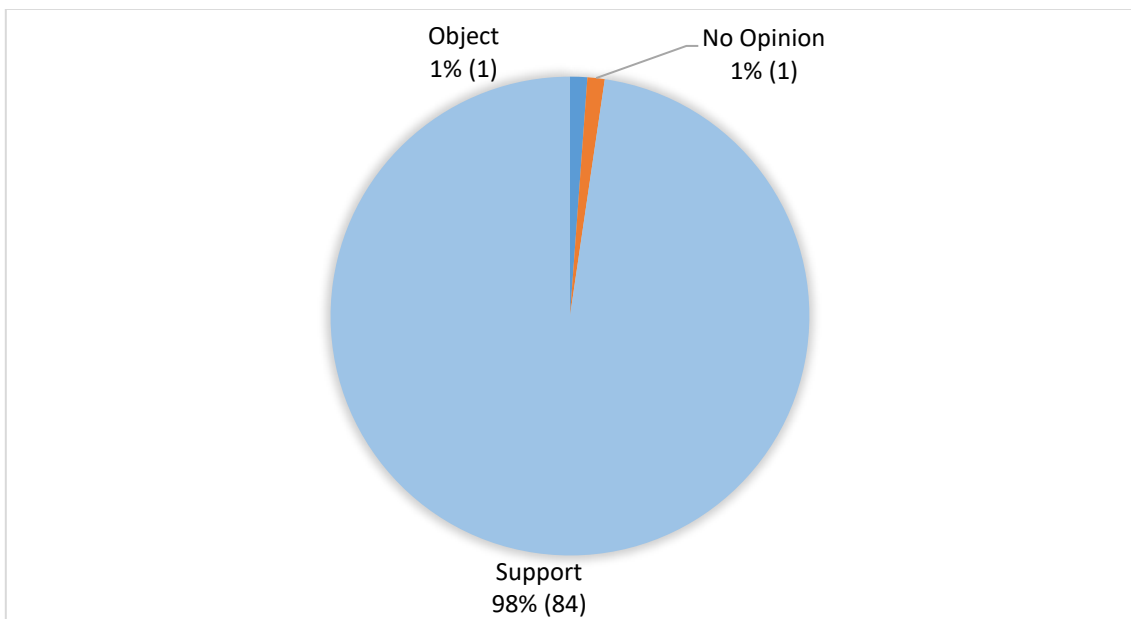
6. 86 responses were received in total.

Results and Analysis

7. **Respondents:** All respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the consultation. The majority of responses were from individuals. The local organisation was The Dog's Trust. The town/parish council was not identified.



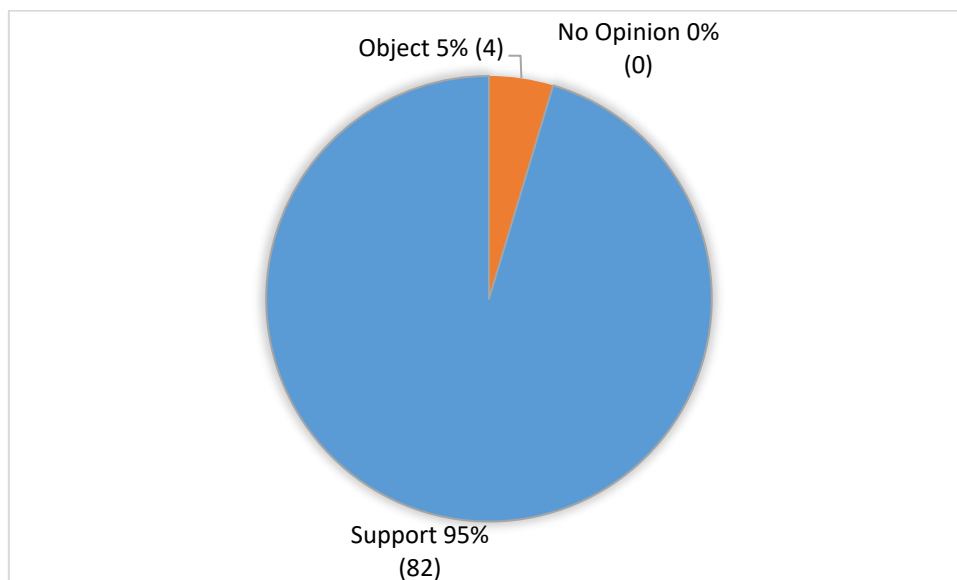
8. **Dog Fouling:** All respondents were asked if they supported Boston Borough Council in continuing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offence of failing to remove dog faeces from land that the public have access to. The chart below shows that 98% of respondents supported this.



9. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make regarding dog fouling.
- As a dog owner myself it is becoming increasingly frustrating that other owners have no regard for their dogs mess. I'm really not sure how you'll can enforce it though as you'd literally need a monitoring officer constantly patrolling park/public areas across the borough, which obviously isn't doable. The mess on footpaths and the park around Woad Farm Road and Wellington Road playing field is a disgrace, but I'm not sure what more you can do? Perhaps larger posters on all entrances to the park might help educate owners?
 - I would welcome stronger enforcement
 - Hi this needs to be enforced in the Boston area, not just the town, we walk our dog around Fishtoft daily and have noticed more and more fouling with no sign of dog wardens, despite having complained!
 - Too many people do not pick up after their dogs as usually to busy looking at their phones and not watching what their dogs are doing. Another bug bear is when they pick it up and then leave the bag. I am a dog owner and often pick up after other owners when there is mess left on a footpath
 - If this is to be implemented the enforcement officers need to vary the hours of day and night to catch repeat offenders who give the rest of us dog owners a bad name. Also there should be more littering enforcement for people generally littering.
 - The cost of policing such an order should be covered by the fines
 - There is not enough enforcement for people who fail to pick up after their pets,
 - But who is going to enforce this
 - Needs to be policed. Too many people just leave it.
 - Could you find a way to introduce reporting people for not doing this? Perhaps to send them a letter? It's a real issue where I walk my dogs and I see the same people doing it time and again
 - I am a dog owner and always pick up our dogs poop. This should be included along with littering in the enforcement
 - This should also include putting the poop in a bag but not putting the bag in a bin / leaving it on the path/road/tree etc
 - I have children and a dog, and there's nothing worse than one of us standing in some else's dog's poo.
 - Always some in central park and surrounding streets. If dogs were on leads n not allowed to run free the owner would see where the poo was n be able to pick it up. Also free dogs would not be able to approach reactive dogs on leads.
 - There needs to be more bins for this.
 - This is very important, it's been an ongoing issue even with the FPN
 - On spot checks to make sure owners are carrying poo bags and if not also fine them
 - You need to put signs up , especially in the villages. I'm sick of having to navigate the dog poo of the heron park housing estate when they walk their dogs in the lanes , and I clear up my dogs poo ! Plus they are angry aggressive when you politely ask them to pick it up

- Dogs Trust consider ‘scooping the poop’ to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance, we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place. We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.
- I am a dog owner and the amount of dog poo not being picked up when im out and about is disgusting.

10. **Dogs on Leads:** All respondents were asked if they supported Boston Borough Council for continuing to require dog owners to put their dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer. The chart below shows that 95% of respondents supported this.



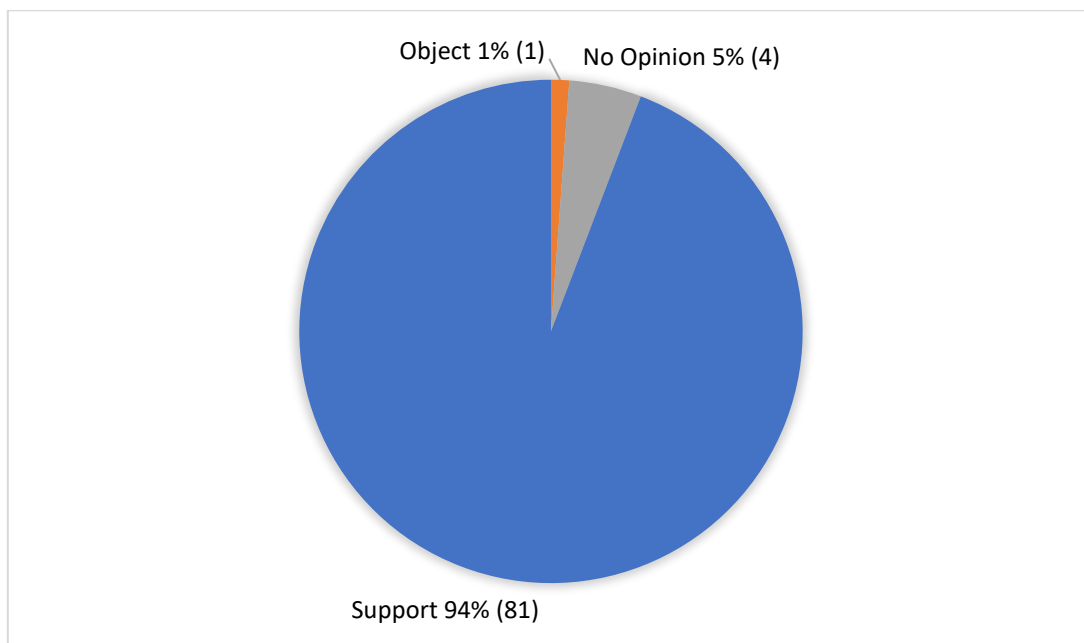
11. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make regarding dogs on leads.

- I think all dogs need to be on leads all of the time, my dog was attacked by 2 off lead dogs at the same time, no owner to be seen, now i can't walk my dog in any of the lovely wood areas we have in and around Boston anymore because he and I am petrified that it could happen again.
- I would like to see this go further with the re-establishing of Dogs Must Be Kept on Lead signs in public places including Central Park. I'm a dog owner myself who always has their dog on lead in public - I'm tired of being bothered by other people's dogs off lead and out of control, at best this is annoying and at worst dangerous. Owners of such dogs are rude when challenged as the law is not being made clear.
- My son was attacked by a dog off its lead and resulted in a hospital visit and deep wound

- Dogs should always be on leads in public parks. There are plenty of places to go to allow dogs off lead. The Central Park is a prime example. Yes dogs should be kept out of the play area but that doesn't stop dogs running after kids on bikes and scooter on the skate park area. Some dogs are aggressive towards loud noises and things on wheels etc.
- "I am a dog owner. I feel all dogs should be on leads no matter what. I get dogs off leads come up to my dog for the owner to tell me they are friendly but our dog gets stressed by this, when we explain this to the dog owner they get aggressive. Too many incidents happen even when dogs are friendly.
- More signs should be displayed to show dogs on leads at all times. As authorised officers are not about enough to enforce as dog walking happens outside of working hours mostly "
- She should be on leads at all times in public places and parks
- All dogs should be on leads at all times.
- Should put their dogs on a lead if they see other dogs on a lead not just if asked to do so by an officer
- I think it needs to be discussed as to what areas this will be implemented.
- Dogs should be on a lead in Central Park as children and elderly and people who don't want dogs around them use it.
- There should be sufficient authorised officers available to police all areas"
- I own dogs and keep my on the lead when in public. There are far too many irresponsible dog owners who do not have control over their dog in public places. When out other dogs off the lead constantly approaching my dogs. With my dog being attacked by a dog off the lead. All dogs should be kept on leads in public space as any dog can change in an instant despite how friendly they are
- As a postperson I totally agree with this i see so many incidents where dog owners are not responsible enough
- I think all dogs should be on leads at all times in public places. No authority about to ask people to put their dog on a lead.
- All dogs should be on lead in public places and under the owners full control. Too many dogs are allowed to come over to my dog because they're off lead and not under owners control and no authorised officers are about to request them to be put on lead.
- As someone with two reactive dogs who aren't of their leads around other dogs, there are so many issues with dogs off leads around this town so more enforcement/reporting of this would be great
- When requested to do so dogs should be on leads for public and animal safety. However there must also be safe spaces promoted where dogs CAN run freely without enforcement under owner control (eg fenced parks with dog bins)
- Dogs should always be on a lead unless in a private, contained space
- All dogs should be on leads at all times unless in designated fenced dog parks. Free dogs often approach my reactive dog n owners dont care. This causes distress for me and my dog. If the dog comes running up to us, my dog doesnt like that and gets defensive.

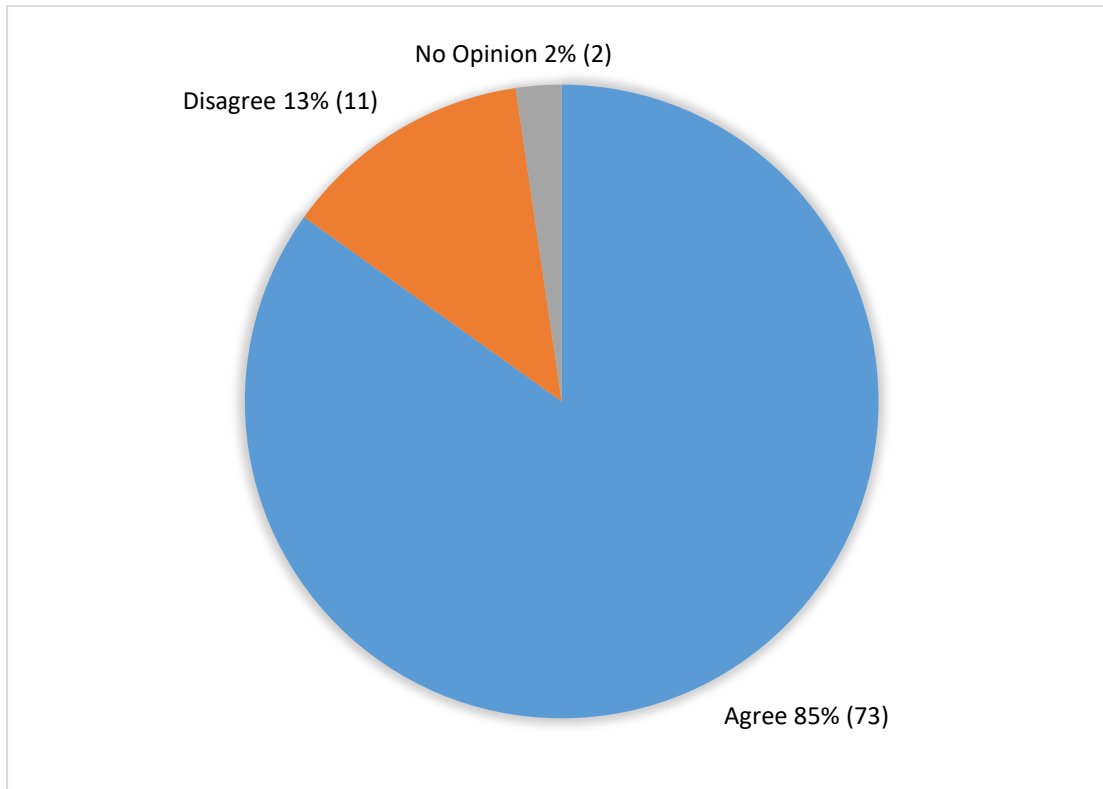
- Many people hang around areas with dogs for the majority of the day, these dogs must remain on leads for their own and everyone else's safety.
- This is subjective, some dogs are very well trained while others are not, most dogs are brilliant off lead with a small number of them not.
- Depends on the reason the dog has been asked to be placed on lead. My dogs are well behaved so shouldn't need to go on lead if they are not causing any issues
- My dog is always on a lead , unless in a free running area away from people
- "Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog."
- I am happy for dogs to be off lead in public spaces if they are under control. I don't agree with dogs being asked to be put on a lead if they are under control in a public space
- I think dogs should always be on leads in public spaces. Both my children have had to overcome dog phobias after being knocked down by dogs described as "being friendly" and "harmless" by owners on the other side of the (Central) park.

12. **Dog Exclusion from Fenced Children's Play Areas:** All respondents were asked if they supported Boston Borough Council in continuing to ban dogs from fenced areas of children's play areas in the district. The chart below shows that 94% of respondents supported this.



13. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make regarding dog exclusion from fenced children's play areas.
- Childrens safety should come first, they dont want to stand in mess and any dog can be unpredictable
 - I support dogs being kept out of designated play areas, don't ban them from grassed areas in parks
 - Needs to be policed because too many people think its okay to take their dog in such areas because they have children
 - Again great to do but never seems to be enforced. I live near Woodville Road play area and there's regularly dogs within the fenced area of the park running around off leads in there.
 - As long as there are fenced areas where a dog can play too - the children's bit should be seperately fenced off
 - Children should be free to play without dogs and dog wee in the immediate vicinity
 - Children think all dogs are nice n can be rough with them putting both dog and child in danger
 - More for the safety of the dog
 - Dogs should be kept out of fenced children's play areas. It's not acceptable to allow dogs around children's play areas where they can urinate and defecate anywhere and potentially unsettle a child.
 - Yes I support this. Dogs do not need to be in children play areas, there are plenty of other spaces to exercise your dog.
 - I'm a dog owner and have no issue with this
 - "Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
 - Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs. "
 - If the dog is on a lead and under control I don't see the issue.
 - Why were the gates preventing dogs from accessing the play area in Central Park removed?

14. **Fixed Penalty Notice Charge:** All respondents were asked if they supported Boston Borough Council 's proposal to maintain the amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice charge at £100 for breaches of the PSPO. 85% agreed and 13% disagreed.
15. Of the 11 people who disagreed, 6 stated that it should be higher, 1 stated that it should be lower, 1 stated that it should be higher for repeat offenders and 3 did not make a comment.

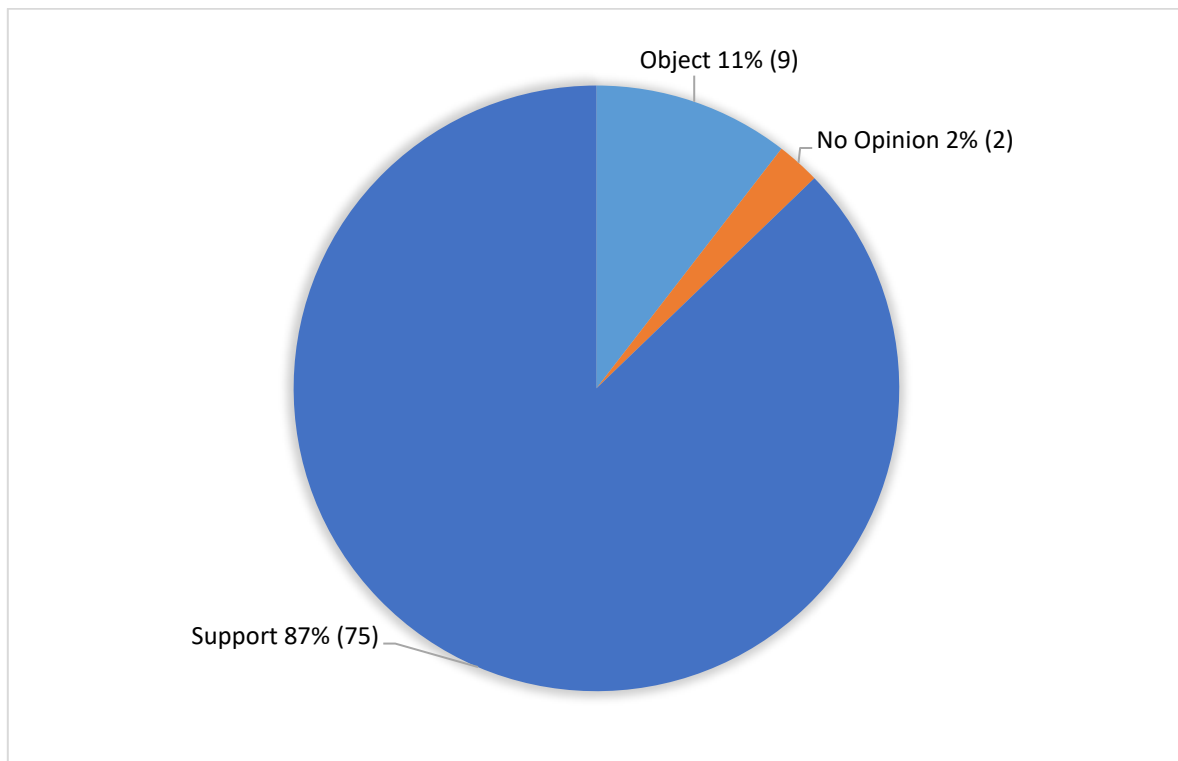


16. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make regarding Boston Borough Council's proposal to maintain its Fixed Penalty Notice Charge.

- This needs to be increased and more enforcement officers to ensure it's charged
- The fine should be more and officers should be on patrol more.
- I would like to know where this money would be spent.
- Only if it covers the costs, if not, it should be higher
- However, this is not currently enforced enough. It should also be considered being raised higher for second, third offences
- I think this amount should be increased
- The fine amount should be higher! I am a responsible dog owner who clears up after their dog. There should be more of a deterrent for those who don't
- If not more and actually regularly enforcing this would be great!
- £50 is reasonable for a fpn
- Although it should be higher
- Repeat offenders should have higher fine and dog removed from their care.

- If it could be higher, I would support this to discourage people from breaching it.
- I think that the FPN should be increased
- We are in a very poor deprived area of the UK, no real investment has taken place in nearly ten years, most are on minimal wage or UC, £100 is a lot of money to 90% of people locally. any more would lead to undue hardship for little mistake.
- "Could higher.
- It should be a higher fine than £100.

17. **Dog Fouling – Means to Pick Up:** All respondents were asked if they supported Boston Borough Council in continuing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offence of failing to produce on request a means to pick up dog faeces on land the public have access to. The chart below shows that 87% supported this and 11% objected.



18. All respondents were asked if they had any comments to make regarding Boston Borough Council continuing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offence of failing to produce on request a means to pick up dog faeces.

- Never seen anyone ask even though we have complained numerous times
- Should carry enough bags with them but there could be exceptions for example if a dog has an upset stomach and cleaning up takes more bags than you take
- I don't think this is necessary as if you don't have bags you can't pick the mess up so would be fined anyway.
- Needs policing. I have never been challenged
- Again the more this is actually checked and enforced the more people might start to do it because it's a real issue- however carrying a bag doesn't mean they'll use it and so many people seem to bag it and then abandon it on the floor or in a tree!
- Bag it and bin it. Our dog sometimes does 3 poops on a walk and having 1 bag is never enough
- "The difficulty with this one is that the owner may have unintentionally ran out of poo bags whilst on their walk. If they have already used one or 2 bags and are maybe on their way home or close to home then it would be unfair to fine them for this. But there would be no way of proving they have already used their bags though.

- The council could provide free poo bags at dedicated areas throughout the town and at dog walking places such as woods and parks to help tackle the issue. "
- U may have just used ur last one without realising. But your dog has just been for a poo and will not go now for several hours by which time you would be home.
- An owner might have used their bag, be taking their dog from home to car and a fine in these circumstances would be over zealous as the dog has not fouled at this point so no crime has been committed
- It should also be an offence to leave bagged faeces behind instead of binning them
- Dog walkers/owners should have a means of picking up after them otherwise they would be at risk of offending.
- What if the person has used it already?
- You need to make it easier to report as we don't know where the bad dog owners live short of following them home
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.
- I think this is harsh as some owners may have already picked up their dog's faeces but don't have anymore bags on them. Perhaps officers can have poo bags on them to hand out to owners if they need to. As sometimes you use more / all poo bags on you.

Headline results

- 98% support continuing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offence of failing to remove dog faeces from land that the public have access to.
- 95% support continuing to require dog owners to put their dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer.
- 94% support continuing to ban dogs from fenced areas of children's play areas.
- 85% agreed with the proposal to maintain the amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice charge at £100 for breaches of the PSPO. 13% disagreed, with the majority of comments made indicating it should be higher.
- 87% supported continuing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offence of failing to produce on request a means to pick up dog faeces. 11% objected.